

**Approved-6/3/2010**

## **CUMBERLAND SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

**A regular meeting of the Cumberland School Committee was held on Thursday, May 13, 2010 at the Cumberland High School Auditorium, 2600 Mendon Road, Cumberland, Rhode Island.**

### **Agenda Item #1: Chairman Convenes Meeting**

**The meeting was called to order by Chairman Donald Costa at 7:45 p.m.**

**Members Present: Lisa Beaulieu, Donald Costa, Brian Kelly, Jeff Mutter, Ryan Pearson, Dan Pedro, Earl Wood**

**Staff Present: Donna A. Morelle, Ed.D., Superintendent, Joseph A. Rotella, Esq., Director of Administration, Alex Prignano, Business Manager, Lisa Colwell, Director of Special Services**

### **Agenda Item #2: Pledge of Allegiance**

### **Agenda Item #3: Approval of Agenda**

**Motion to approve agenda was made by Ryan Pearson, 2nd by Lisa Beaulieu. Approved 7-0.**

### **Agenda Item #4: Recognition of Achievements**

**Dr. Morelle presented several certificates of athletic and academic recognition to students from throughout the district. Several students and their families were in the audience to accept their certificate; students that did not attend would be picking them up at their schools.**

#### **Agenda Item #5: Student Government Report**

**Ms. Newman and Ms. Duke reported that the April 7th blood drive was a success with almost 100 participants. They also noted that the Freshman Frolic was held on April 10th and the Junior Prom was being held on May 14th. On May 20th there will be a class election where the students will be able to vote for next year's sophomore, junior and senior president, vice president, secretary and treasurer. The girls also reported that Cumberland High is currently in first place in the Turn to Ten Free Prom Contest! Voting for this contest ends on June 13th so we all need to keep voting!**

#### **Agenda Item #6: Chairperson's Report**

**No report at this time.**

#### **Agenda Item #7: Superintendent's Report on Teaching and Learning**

**Dr. Morelle explained the Rhode Island Race to the Top application process and advised us that although our application scored high, Rhode Island did not receive the funds they requested, so now we are at a second advantage point and we will try again. The grants are from stimulus money and it is a competitive grant program authorized**

under sections of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA). The grants are to implement reform in four education areas 1) enhance standards and assessments, 2) improve the use of data, 3) increase teacher effectiveness and 4) turn around struggling schools. Cumberland could ultimately receive between \$400,000 and \$500,000 depending on how many districts are actually receiving grant dollars.

#### **Agenda Item #8: Comments from the public**

No comments at this juncture.

#### **Agenda Item #9: Reports of Standing Committees**

**A. Payment of Bills-Mr. Kelly** reported that the finance sub-committee met earlier in the evening so he made the motion to pay the invoices in the amount of \$1,230,846.75, the motion was 2nd by Mr. Pearson, approved 7-0.

Lisa Beaulieu stated that the sub-committee regarding the Fair Funding Resolution will meet again in two weeks. This committee will be working on a resolution to support their funding for students. Mr. Pearson asked that if the sub-committee had it ready for the next meeting, he would like it to go to a full vote. Mr. Pearson also asked Mr. Kelly if he would bring the 2011 list of budget considerations from committee members to the next meeting. Lisa Beaulieu also reported that the curriculum sub-committee met earlier in the week and approved 3-0 the passage of the Language Arts Curriculum K-5. The

**committee also reviewed some curriculum maps for grades 7-12 – they were only drafts but it was noted that a lot of collaboration between the middle and high school has gone into these drafts and hopefully sometime next year these maps will be ready for final review.**

#### **Agenda Item #10: Approval of Minutes**

**Mr. Pearson made a motion to approve Open Session 3/11/10, Special Meeting 3/18/10, Special Meeting 3/22/10, Special Meeting 3/25/10, Executive Session 3/25/10, was 2nd by Lisa Beaulieu, approved 7-0.**

**Mr. Pearson made a motion to table the Special Meeting 4/7/10 and Open Session 4/8/10, 2nd by Lisa Beaulieu, approved 7-0.**

**Mr. Pearson made a motion to approve Executive Session 3/3/10, Executive Session 3/11/10, Executive Session 3/25/10, Executive Session 4/8/10, 2nd by Lisa Beaulieu, approved 7-0.**

#### **Agenda Item # 11: Old Business**

**A. Vote to Refer Elementary School Design Proposal to Special Programs Sub-committee - motion was made by Mr. Pearson to refer this proposal to a Special Programs Sub-committee, 2nd by Mr. Pedro, approved 7-0.**

#### **Agenda Item #12: New Business**

**A. Discussion and/or vote to approve 2010-2011 school calendar – Mr. Pearson made a motion to approve the school calendar, 2nd by Lisa Beaulieu. Mr. Wood then brought up an issue regarding eliminating**

either the February or April vacation and changing it to March – so the students would just have the one vacation. Dr. Morelle reviewed why she believes the calendar should remain as it is, with the February and April vacations. Dr. Morelle also stated that it would be a staggered opening again this year, with the ninth graders beginning school on 9/1. The last day of school would be June 17, 2011 – we go for 183 days. Mr. Kelly asked about bussing issues, would it cost us more money or save us money. Mr. Prignano thought that this would have to be reviewed. Mr. Mutter asked if there were any cost savings at all – heating costs were brought up as one of the potential savings.

Dr. Morelle pointed out that families that have other siblings in other schools (i.e. private) would still be getting the February and April vacation and this could cause problems for the family because they would be disrupting one child's schedule so as to accommodate the family vacation. Mr. Costa asked if Dr. Morelle could give the committee a calendar that reflected the March vacation, so the members could see what it would do to exam schedules, etc. Mr. Wood made a motion to review a revised calendar supplied by Dr. Morelle, that shows one week vacation in March(eliminating the February and April vacation) and another version with just the one week in April – eliminating the February vacation, motion 2nd by Mr. Pedro – motion failed 4-3,yes – Wood, Pedro,Kelly, no – Mutter, Beaulieu, Pearson, Costa. Mr. Pearson then made a motion to approve the 2010-2011 school calendar without any changes, 2nd by Lisa Beaulieu, approved 5-2, yes – Mutter,Kelly,Pearson,Beaulieu,Costa, no – Wood,Pedro.

**B. Discussion and/or vote on memorandum of understanding for RI Race to the Top Round 2 Application-Dr. Morelle stated that the committee members have received several documents in their packets pertaining to the round 2 application. The partnership agreement that is being reviewed and discussed tonight is the legal document that lists responsibilities, etc, and there are four partners that must all be in agreement and sign this document before it is passed on, they are the superintendent, the school committee chairperson, RIDE, and the CTA. Dr. Morelle suggested her recommendations and comments for various sections of this agreement and explained her views on each. The document needed to be submitted on 5/14/10. Mr. Pearson made the motion for the chairperson to sign the agreement, 2nd by Lisa Beaulieu, approved 7-0.**

**C. Discussion and/or vote to purchase K-5 Core Reading Curriculum – Lisa Di-Giovanni gave some highlights of action plans, team input, site visits, team/teacher evaluations, results from other schools already using the program – results were overwhelmingly beneficial to the students. Mr. Kelly was concerned about how to pay the cost of it - \$330,000 – administration wanted to get the materials for this program in by 7/1/10 – which means some of the dollars need to come out of the 2010 budget – Dr. Morelle and Alex Prignano will review this situation for the next meeting. Mr. Kelly made the motion to table this purchase until the 5/27/10 meeting, 2nd by Mr. Pearson, approved 7-0.**

**D. Discussion and/or vote on transportation contract extension-Mr.**

Kelly met with Durham at the finance committee meeting earlier in the evening. They reviewed the amended agreement – the district will purchase their fuel from Malloy – savings will be to bottom line, the district will allow Durham to reduce spare busses by 10%, Durham agreement appears to be better than the state offered. New contract would be for three years-current contract is up in August. Mr. Mutter was concerned about a balloon payment in 2012, but Mr. Prignano feels that the budget will be in better shape by then due to additional savings and state aide. Mr. Kelly made a motion to approve the contract extension to Durham and it was 2nd by Mr. Pearson, approved 6-1 (no vote Mr. Mutter).

E. Discussion and/or vote on FY 2011 Budget-Mr. Pearson made a motion to table the 2011 budget until the next meeting, 2nd by Mr. Kelly, approved 7-0.

F. Re-organization of School Committee Special Programs Sub-committee-Mr. Costa would like Mr. Mutter to chair this committee along with Lisa Beaulieu and Mr. Pedro-they will be reviewing the design proposal for the elementary schools.

### **Agenda Item #13: Personnel Recommendations**

Resignations – Robert Crozier, Girls Softball Coach at NCMS, effective 3/24/10, Donna Hart, Teacher Assistant at JJM Cumberland Hill Elementary, effective 4/9/10, Armand Pires, Principal at MMS, effective 6/30/10, Manuel Rodrigues, custodian at CHS, effective 5/4/10 – Mr. Pearson made a motion to approve all resignations, 2nd by Mr. Kelly, approved 6-1.

**Leaves of absence – Lisa Albert, Guidance Counselor at MMS, effective for the 2010-2011 school year returning for the 2011-2012 school year – Mr. Pearson made a motion to approve this leave, 2nd by Mr. Pedro, approved 7-0.**

**Agenda Item #14: Comments from the public**

**Mrs. S. thought that one week vacation in March would be a great idea, she commented on what a great presentation was given on the reading program earlier in the evening and she commented briefly on the volume of notes in the E-news updates.**

**Mrs. F. is a little concerned about the possibility of making the walking distance a little longer for students-potential cost savings if we could eliminate a bus stop – she is concerned about the younger students and about parents not being at the bus stops – safety needs to come first at all times – costs are a consideration but should not come before the safety of the children.**

**Agenda Item # 15: School Committee Comments (School Liaison Reports)**

**Mr. Wood wanted to congratulate all the members of the National Honor Society and the Rhode Island Honor Society.**

**Mr. Costa wanted to remind committee members that they should have received an invitation to the Distinguished Scholar Ceremony on June 1, 2010 – need to RSVP to AnnMarie Brouillard.**

**Agenda Item # 16: Vote to go into Executive Session – N/A**



**Agenda Item #17: Adjournment**

**Motion made by Mr. Pearson to adjourn, 2nd by Mr. Kelly, meeting adjourned 10:28 p.m.**

**Meeting minutes respectfully submitted by Linda A. Jackvony**